

~~SECRET~~

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
 (2)(A) Privacy ☐
 (2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
 (2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH ON GENERAL REINHARD GEHLEN

General Reinhard Gehlen is a professional military and intelligence officer. Until his retirement on 30 April 1968, he was President of the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), the West German Federal Intelligence Service, as well as chief of its predecessor organizations formed at the end of World War II.

General Gehlen was born 3 April 1902 in Erfurt. He currently lives in Berg on the Starnberg Lake near Munich. He finished his formal schooling in 1920 and entered the military service directly. He received his commission as second lieutenant in 1923 and served his initial tours of duty in the horse artillery. He married in 1931 and in 1935 he attended the War Academy in Berlin. At that time he held the rank of captain. By 1939 and shortly before the outbreak of World War II, he was promoted to major. He participated in the Polish campaign, but by 1940 he was transferred to a headquarters post. At that time he became an aid to General Halder, who was Chief of the General Staff. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1941 and became chief of Fremde Heere Ost in 1942. (Fremde Heere Ost /Foreign Armies East/ was that section of the German High Command charged with responsibility for charting the enemy order of battle on the eastern front. It was essentially an evaluation unit and worked closely with the Abwehr. It did engage in line crossing operations as the war progressed, however.) Gehlen received his promotion to colonel soon after taking over Fremde Heere Ost and by 1944 was promoted to brigadier general. In the course of preparing estimates on enemy order of battle, he reached the conclusion as early as 1943 that the German cause on the eastern front was lost, and his continued pessimistic evaluations led to a reprimand from Hitler, and in the last days of the war he was relieved of command by order of Hitler. Long before that day General Gehlen had already consulted with senior members of his staff and made plans to continue their efforts against the Russians after the inevitable capitulation of the German Army, but in cooperation with the American Army. General Gehlen consequently cached his files in the Bavarian Alps and withdrew to that area in the final days of the war. He subsequently surrendered to the Americans, and after his initial POW debriefings, he presented his plan for the continued collection of order of battle information of the Soviet Armies. General Gehlen was motivated by his strong view that the position of the Soviet Army so deep in Europe constituted a

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NWC-002652

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5131 Berg bei Starnberg
 Waldstrasse 68
 Obb. / BRD

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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real threat to Western civilization. His views were so strong that he was able to convince his captors of these views. He was then flown back to Washington in 1946 for further debriefings, and the decision was made at the G-2 level to allow General Gehlen to reform his unit and to permit him to engage in a collection effort against the Soviet Army in Eastern Europe. Some [] were appropriated for this effort. General Gehlen succeeded in reforming his unit and retrieving most of his files. He operated under G-2 sponsorship from 1946 until 1949 when CIA assumed responsibility for the Gehlen organization as it was then known. From 1949 until 1956 General Gehlen devoted his full energies to legalizing his organization as the West German Federal Intelligence Service. He achieved this goal in March 1956 and thereby became its first president. He became directly responsible to the Chancellor's officer. After legalization he strove to develop his organization into a world-wide intelligence service having collection capabilities and liaison on a world-wide basis. He has gone a long way toward accomplishing this goal.

As a personality General Gehlen still remains essentially a professional military officer in habits and attitudes though he never entered on active duty after World War II. He is, however, a lieutenant general in the reserve. At one time he was an accomplished horseman though he no longer permits himself this luxury, primarily because of time considerations. He is a family man and has four children. It is believed General Gehlen leads a quiet life outside of his official duties. In all things he is essentially conservative. He rarely entertains, and he does not drink. His English is fluent, and he is socially poised and very much at ease among senior American officials. Since his retirement he has been engaged in writing his memoirs and compiling a history of the BND.

General Gehlen was succeeded on 1 May 1968 by General Gerhard Nessel, his adjutant in Frende Haere Ost, who was instrumental in assisting in the formation of the Gehlen organization. Nessel has served with the BND, the West German Ministry of Defense, and the NATO Military Committee in Washington and Brussels.

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(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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Date: 2001

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NAME: GÜNTHER, Reinhard

(ex-Brig. Gen.)

Rank

GEHLEN, Reinhard

BIRTHDATE: 3 Apr 1902

BIRTHPLACE: Erfurt, Thuringia

RESIDENCE: Berg am Starnberger See

Maldstr. 68 (near Munich)

RELIGION: Protestant

ALIAS: C

V:

TELEPHONE #

VEHICLE:

LICENSE # (s):

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AS OF 1958

HEIGHT: 5' 8 1/2"

WEIGHT: 145-160

EYES: blue

HAIR: dk blond, balding

PHOTO DATES: prob pr 51



BUILD: medium

TEETH:

OTHER: glasses, small

Mustache, military

bearing, looks

young for age.

FATHER: C

MOTHER: C

SPOUSE: C

CHILDREN: C

C

OTHER RELATIVES: C

DOB/POB: C

DOB/POB: C

DOB/POB: C

DOB/POB: C

DOB/POB: C

DOB/POB: C

DOB/POB: C

DOB: summer 1945 Jan 1946

RANK:

POSITION:

SECTION:

FROM: Origin

TO:

Note: For details of GEHLEN's background and experience see following pages.

DATE TERMINATION OR SEPARATION:

ARM STATUS:

NWC-002701

SECRET
NOFORN

REST

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GEHLEN, Reinhard.
b. 3 Apr 1902.

Chronological Information:

1908-20 Humanistisches Gymnasium Breslau. Graduated.
1920, Apr Entered military service (artillery).
1923 Commissioned Second Lieutenant.
1928 Promoted First Lieutenant.
1931, Oct Married Werta (nee von SEIDLITZ-KURZBACH) GEHLEN on 11 Oct 1931, Glogau.
1933 Travelled to Rome, Italy (leave).
1933, Fall-
1935, Jan Attended War Academy, Berlin.
1934 Promoted Captain.
1937 Travelled to Finland and Sweden (leave).
1937-38 First General Staff Officer 10 Department Fortifications.
1937-45 German Wehrmacht troop duty Poland, France, Yugoslavia, Greece, Russia.
1938-39 Battery Commander.
1939, Mar Promoted Major.
39 Sep-Nov Ia (G-3) 213th Infantry Division.
1939, Nov-
1940, Jul OKH Gruppe Landesbefestigung (Chief, Fortifications Sect. General Staff).
40 Jul-Nov Aide (Adjutant) to Chief of General Staff, General HALDER.
1940 Nov-
1942 Apr Chief Gruppenleiter I, Ost (Sect Chief within Dept for Plans and Operations).
1941 Jul Promoted Lieutenant Colonel.
1942 Apr-
1945 Apr Chief ABT Fremde Heere Ost.
1942 Dec Promoted Colonel.
1944 Dec Promoted Brigadier General.
1945 Apr Dismissed by Special Order of Hitler on 9th of April.
1945 May Prisoner of War, U.S. Forces, on 23 May.
1945 May Prisoner of War arrived at the 12th Army Group IC on 27 May.
1945 end Prisoner of War sent to USA by War Department.
1946 Jun Prisoner of War returned from the States on 5 June.
1946 Jul Since has cooperated with USIS.
1946 Reinhard GEHLEN
Profession: Merchant
Address: c/o Dr. ERHARDT
10 Guentherburg Allee
Frankfurt a/M.
1946 on Several trips to Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Spain and France.
1946 Jul 12-
Nov 30 Subject documented as having lived in Washington, D. C. during this period.
Jan 19 German stamp.
" 19 London Airport.
" 22 Harwick, England.
" 23 Hook of Holland.
" 23 Kon. Warechaus Venlo stat. (Dutch border).
" 23 German stamp.
56 May 30 Dover.
" 13 Belgie-U Havenoostende.
" 30 Belgique-E Herbesihel 27.
Jun 1 Belgique-S Herbesihel.
" 1 Belgie-S Havenoostende Zeevaartpolitie 11.
" 1 Dover.

This Information
was extracted from
[]
passport,
(Immigration stampings).

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NAME: GEBLER, Reinhard

(ex-Brig. Gen.)

Rqs []

GEBLER von VAKROBOWSKY, Reinhard:

Occasional references to this name which would indicate that either Subject or his father combined their surname with that of Subject's mother — fairly common practice in Germany.

ALIAS:

[]
[]
[]

[] b. []
[] b. []

[] Covername used within the Org.

(Subject has been issued at various times German identity papers in connection with the three aliases mentioned above).

[] b. [] Issued IGO-card D-147996. This alias used only occasionally, for instance in travelling to Austria.

[] These aliases used whenever special precautionary measures are warranted and wherever mistaken identity with another person of the same name is desirable.

[] b. [] Liegnitz, Schlesien. (Kaufmann).

BORN: 3 Apr 1902; Erfurt, Thuringia, Germany.

RELIGION: Protestant.

RESIDENCE: Berg a/Staraberger See, Waldstr 68. (near Munich, Germany).

ALL DESCRIPTION: Photo.

Height: 174 cm.

Weight: 65-72 kg

Eyes: blue

Hair: dark blonde,

Face-shape: round

Complexion: light

Build: medium

central baldness.

Scars:

Prominent ident. features: military bearing, extremely young looking compared with chronological years, small mustache, wears glasses.

FATHER:

MOTHER:

WIFE:

GE
GE
GE
GE

OTHER RELATIVES:

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BOO: 1946, TMS Co-operation;
 Payroll No: 3002. Jan 53 pr. from "S" to "P" category: LW 1225/2507.

Emergency No:
 Position: Chief, Section 28 (ex-Section 30).
 Organisation:
 Cover Unit: #

Special Connections No: 20
 Housing Loan No. 8, dated 1 Apr 51.
 Bank: Bayerische Vereinsbank, Munich.

DOCUMENTATION:

Passport: Reinhard GEHLEN via VALENZUECK. TTD []
 Reinhard GEHLEN, TTD [] issued Stuttgart, 30 Sep 49 valid to
 30 Mar 50 for USA.
 TTD [] valid for Switzerland, Austria, Italy,
 Spain and France (50).
 TTD [] issued 20 Jun 51 for UJDRACO purpose.
 Passport no. []
 Passport No. []
 Passport No. []
 Passport No. [] Reg. Nr. CA-1004/54 issued
 5 Nov 54, Munich, profession: Kaufmann.

Arrest: Reinhard GEHLEN: H 519712, 3 Mar 47, Police President, Frankfurt/M.
 B 03611.

H 478955 (also listed as H 478055). Address: Munich,
 Seefeldstr 8.
 Pistol Permit: Reinhard GEHLEN: Automatic pistol permit [] 20 Mar 51.
 Pistol Permit, F & D, B 046419, 6 Feb 53,
 automatic pistol. Make: Browning, Ser. # 108877.
 Gun permit [] F & D, 1 Mar 51,
 automatic pistol German Walther PPK,
 Serial # 227066 K.

7th Army I Letter: Issued 29 Jul 53.
 ZIPPER ID Card: B.03611.

ZIPPER "E" Card:

Cete Pass: []

[] # 1038.

REFERENCES:

Form No. 35-5
April 1950

INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SECRET *JMS*

PAGE No.

From: BONN
To: SPECIAL OPERATIONS
Action: FRAN
Information: []

SECURITY INFORMATION	
IP/EDI	INDEX
IP/MB	CODE NO. (1, 3)
IP/CRU	RYBAT EST. CODE
	CABLE IDEN (11)
	HFD (8)
	FOR FILING

ROUTINE
25 JAN 52
[]

Paraphrase Not Required. Handle as **SECRET** Correspondence per Pars. 51 (1) 60A AR-380-5

TO: FRANF INFO: WASHF, PULLF CITE: BONNF

1. GLOBKE INFORMED [] HE PLANS TO DISCUSS WITH [] INTELLIGENCE MATTERS ON JAN 26 IN EFFORT TO CLEARLY DEFINE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS EXISTING GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES INCLUDING ZIPPER. GLOBKE HOPES THEREBY TO MINIMIZE PRESENT FRICTION BETWEEN INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS.

2. REACTION OF DR GUMBEL AND DR GRAU WHO HAD MADE BRIEF SURVEY OF ZIPPER PERSONNEL AND FINANCES COMPLETELY FAVORABLE BOTH (RECD TOTH) AS TO BACKGROUND LEADERS AND SALARIES BEING PAID WHICH WERE IN ACCORDANCE GERMAN CIVIL SERVICE.

3. GLOBKE PLANS TO HAVE CAREFUL ESTIMATE MADE OF GERMAN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ZIPPER. RESULTING BUDGET WILL BE SUBMITTED TO FINANCE MINISTER AND SPECIAL BUNDESTAG FINANCE COMMITTEE. FINANCE MINISTER ALREADY INFORMED CONCERNING ZIPPER.

4. NO GERMAN INTELLIGENCE TECHNICIAN YET APPOINTED FOR QUADRIPARTITE WORKING COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS. GLOBKE CLAIMED HE UNAWARE SUCH PERSON NEEDED AND MADE TENTATIVE SUGGESTION THAT RADTKE MIGHT BE SUITABLE AND COULD BE SUPPORTED BY ZIPPER STAFF IF REQUIRED.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- Privacy ☐- Methods/Sources ☒- Foreign Relations ☐

TOR:2147Z 25 JAN 52

Date: 2003

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Central Intelligence Agency**SECRET**

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-52332-2

INTELLIGENCE	
JAN 30 1952	
RECORDS	
ABSTRACT	INDEX

SECURITY INFORMATION

VIA: AIR

(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

ARCH No. C**SECRET**
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE

FROM : Chief of Station, Frankfurt *(Hm)*

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational

DATE: 7 August 1952

For info and files

SPECIFIC— Progress Report - ZIPPER Transfer to The Federal Republic

1. We have had an excellent opportunity to debrief Dr. HORN during his two day stay in Munich prior to his three week leave to Austria. The information received from him plus what we have learned from Drs. GRAU and GUMBEL (GLOBKE's Administrative and Financial experts studying ZIPPER), and recent discussions with UTILITY has given us a rather lucid picture of ZIPPER developments and progress to legalize themselves with the Bundesrepublik towards becoming the German Intelligence Service.

2. The team of GRAU and GUMBEL completed a three day visit on 18 July 1952. After an overall introduction by UTILITY the following subjects were discussed in detail:

- a. Personnel matters.
- b. Relationship and cooperation with other governmental authorities.
- c. Cover and Legalization problems.
- d. Basic questions of financing and administrative handling.
- e. Accounting procedure.
- f. Budget planning.
- g. Examination of financial matters.
- h. Insurance matters.

DMS det

IP/ECI	SEARCHED	INDEXED
IP/3	SERIALIZED	FILED
	AUG 10 1952	
	FBI - NEW YORK	

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b) i. Travel costs, disposal costs, procurement of consultants and specialists.

(2)(A) Privacy ☐(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐j. Procurement of foreign currencies.k. Property and financial assets.l. Vehicles and motorization.

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FORM NO. 51-20A
MAR. 1949

2 - File

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3. Apparently ZIPPER has prepared the background material of the points listed above and has now been asked to prepare the subjects and contents of this material in a format acceptable to the government. We have asked UTILITY to provide us with copies of the reports they will turn over to Bonn.

4. After considering the problem of transfer from all points of view we have decided not to interfere or attempt to influence [] in their scheduled program. We have advised UTILITY to this effect to which he concurs. All concerned feel that our involvement may be considered as unwarranted interference in what is considered a basic internal national problem, and we might do more harm than good. We have given assurance of assistance when it may be required or necessary, and have asked UTILITY to keep us ~~an~~ courant with developments.

5. Finance Minister SCHAEFFER and Mr. BLANK have been officially briefed by [] that he intends to integrate ZIPPER into the Federal Republic under the jurisdiction of the Chancery as the centralized national intelligence service. It is considered that the above two individuals are the only ones who need know this for the present time, and specifically to assist in the financial and personnel planning. The only other members of the Bonn government officially involved and briefed are members of GLOBKE's office. [] plans to brief the other Ministries and the Bundestag Committee after ratification of the treaties. Blank has also been advised by [] to visit the ZIPPER installation in the near future and to discuss mutual problems. We intend to spend some time with BLANK during his visit here, and hope to get a clearer picture of the possible solutions to the complex personnel problem, particularly of the military slots confronting ZIPPER.

6. The actual transfer of ZIPPER does not appear complicated and is envisaged as follows:

a. Upon the effective date of the entry into force of the conventions, [] intends to publish a letter order announcing the establishment of a centralized national intelligence service under the Chancellery. An executive order or appointment is not necessary since under German law, the Chancellor may create or establish an organization under his jurisdiction which does not have executive powers. The Bundestag has no jurisdiction over such an establishment.

b. Following [] acceptance the only other thing necessary is to receive governmental approval of the budget requirements for the intelligence service. The budget requirements need only be submitted to the Bundes Haushaltsausschuss (Budget Committee) for approval. Preparations for this are under way in the form of studies to be submitted by GRAU and GUMBEL. [] controls the Budget Committee since the CDU coalition controls 15 of the 21 votes and the SPD coalition has the remaining 9. Only a simple majority is necessary to carry a motion.

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20 January 1954

MEMORANDUM TO : ☐

FROM : EE ☐

SUBJECT : ZIPPER/Nazi Elements

1. During General Gehlen's 11 December presentation before the EDC Parliamentary Committee he used a graphic chart to show the extent and number of former SS and SD personnel within the ZIPPER complex:

	Headquarters Wage Scales		Field Wage Scales		
	I-III	IV-IX	I-III	IV-IX	Totals
Total	157	284	132	529	1102
Waffen SS	1	3	4	13	21
Algemeine SS & SD	0	0	12	18	30
Police drafted into SD	0	0	5	9	14

NOTE: The top wage scale is I.

2. In terms of SS and SD percentage, ZIPPER claims they are better off than most West German ministries.

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Orig & 1 - Addressee
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 (2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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Date: 2003

D R A F T**SECRET**

[] Not sent

TO: EE

SUBJ: Former Nazi and SS Membership in ZIPPER

1954?

1. Over the years there have been numerous allegations made by various individuals and factions within the West German government to the effect that ZIPPER's ranks are heavily weighted with former Nazi and SS-types. In view of the fact that Naziism in the German Government appears no longer to be a problem of such primary concern, it would seem that a report dealing with the incidence of these elements within ZIPPER might well be made at this time by way of finalizing the matter.

2. Study of POB's [] files which contain background data on nearly 600 ZIPPERites (about half of the known total of ZIPPER membership) reveal 76 ZIPPERites known to have been either former SS, SD, SA members, NSDAP members, War Crime offenders and/or a combination of same. The 76 who fall into the above category represent about 13% of the ZIPPERites whose background is known to us.

3. It will be remembered [] that UTILITY gave us a copy of a chart used in his presentation before the EDC Parliamentary Committee, 11 Dec 53, to show the extent and number of former SS and SD personnel within the ZIPPER complex. A summary of these figures, which we considered a fairly accurate statement of the facts (since copies of ZIPPER personnel statistics are on file in [] office), show that of 1102 ZIPPERites, 51 are either former Waffen Ss and/or Allgemeine SS and SD. For comparison's

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Central Intelligence Agency

2003

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sake:

UTILITY figures of
SS, SD & SA

51 out of 1102 ZIPPERites = 5%

POB Figures of
SS, SD, & SA

50 out of 600 ZIPPERites = 8% checked

From the above comparison we see that POB's records show only a 3% higher incidence of SS, SD and SA-types than did UTILITY's statement. In fact, from a review of our findings we find nothing to seriously refute ZIPPER's claims "that in terms of SS and SD percentage they are better off than most [] ministries."

4. By way of further comparison it is interesting to note figures recently compiled by [] Bonn from Berlin Documents Center records which show that the present Bundestag has 129 or 26.5% former NSDAP members. UTILITY in a memo dated 8 March 1950 to [] stated that:

"Of all full time coworkers of the staffs of our organization (including District Agencies), 28 percent of the 785 coworkers in question were former members of the NSDAP."

We may consider UTILITY's 28 percent figure to be a fairly conservative one in view of the fact that [] study [] shows up only 13% ZIPPERites in all former Nazi categories.

NAME **GEHLEN, Rheinhardt (General)**

SECURITY INFORMATION

CASE No.

DATE 27 August 1952

NATIONALITY

German

BIRTHDATE

BIRTHPLACE

PRESENT POSITION

Chief, Intelligence

Organization

RACE

SEX

Male

LOCATION

MARITAL STATUS

NAME OF SPOUSE

GEN. OCCUPATION

Intelligence Agent

CHILDREN

EDUCATION

RELIGION

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

LANGUAGES

ATTITUDE TOWARDS: U.S.

HONORS

U.S.S.R.

REMARKS:

Former General, Rheinhardt GEHLEN, who served in Hitler's General Staff as Chief of the Department of Foreign Armies reportedly currently heads a secret organization in West Germany which evaluates intelligence from the East. When the Hitler armies collapsed in 1945, Gehlen is said to have escaped westward with most of the secret files of his department. He allegedly kept in his control many of the top secret lists of German agents planted in the Soviet Union and the eastern neighbor states which subsequently became Soviet satellites. He supposedly had the key to the espionage network built by Canaris, Himmler and Schellenberg. The Americans reportedly took him prisoner but not for long because American intelligence chiefs reportedly became very impressed by his ideas and his documentation which he was able to put at their disposal. They are said to have set him up in an office and permitted him to pick a small staff of ex-Wehr officers (Gen. Canaris's Intelligence Service) most of whom were equipped with good anti-Nazi records. Within a few weeks Gehlen was providing excellent reports on Soviet military and political activities in the eastern zone and was subsequently permitted to expand his staff and his scope of activities. As he expanded, however, many Nazis, SS men and SD men crept into his organization where they enjoyed full protection.

Today Gehlen's espionage organization is said to have agents in all parts of the world. The Americans reportedly supply the funds which amount to [] a year. The former General is said to be able to multiply this sum to many times its original value through clever business deals. It is believed that he has already succeeded in piling up a substantial reserve which would enable him to carry on independently should the Americans cease to support him. The material collected by Gehlen is said to be of first class value. 1/ The interpretation of it, done by his

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(General.)

(continued)

skills. Analysts at their headquarters in Munich has impressed not only the Americans but the [] and the [] as well. A Navy intelligence report of November 1948 states that Gehlen's organization maintains 15 to 16 outer listening posts along the borders of the Russian occupied zone while the organization itself is composed of between 30 and 40 General Staff officers and 50 to 60 other officers. 2/

The danger of Gehlen's organization lies in the future. It has already become an immense underground power in Germany and has key men in all German Government offices, in the police, newspapers, radio stations, etc. His organization has even penetrated the Adenauer Government's Office for the Protection of the Constitution (demanded the secret police office). 1/ Gehlen has been suggested for a position with this office, according to several reports. 3/ 4/ In any event for the present, his network is only using its underground power to expand its influence still farther, get its member in strategic positions, and cover ex-Nazis and SS men from any persecution.

Gehlen himself is reportedly not ambitious for political power. (He is however listed as a member of the Bruderschart) 5/ His hope supposedly is to become the Intelligence chief of the European Army. The many ex-Nazis and ex-officers high up in his machine, however, are regarded as ambitious and representing the real danger. 1/

SOURCES:

- 1/ DAILY EXPRESS, 17 March 1952, Unclassified.
- 2/ Navy, COMNAVFORGER, 350-8-48, 15 November 1948 (B-3), Secret.
- 3/ State, Bonn Report, 7 April 1950, Confidential.
- 4/ State, Ol Bonn Memo to Ol Frankfurt, 18 April 1950, Secret.
- 5/ State, BI files, Confidential.

SECRET

FOR COORDINATION WITH Army

MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICEROUTINE
R 191320Z

JUL 63

EE

FM OUSARMA BONN GER
TO RUEPDA/DA WASHDC
INFO RUFLC/USEUCOM PARIS
RUFDAE/USAREUR

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS.
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.10

DA CRNC

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CITE: CX-137.

FOR ACSI. SGD HILL.

1. (U) GERMAN PRESS HAS REPORTED PUBLIC RUMORS AND OFFICIAL DENIALS THAT REINHARDT GEHLEN (AN ARMY RESERVE LT GENERAL) WILL RESIGN THIS FALL AS DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE BECAUSE OF REACHING THE AGE OF 62. PRESS ALSO REPORTED, AS OFTEN BEFORE, THAT A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR WOULD BE BRIG. GENERAL GERHARD WESSEL.

2. (S) NEITHER OCA NOR ARMA IS AWARE OF ANY INDICATIONS CONFIRMING RUMOR OF GEHLEN'S RETIREMENT. BOTH BELIEVE WESSEL WOULD BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION IF RUMORS PROVE TRUE.

3. (FOAO) THE CURRENT TRIAL AGAINST ALLEGED COMMUNIST INFILTRATORS IN GEHLEN'S ORGANIZATION HAS RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE AND WILL DOUBTLESS GIVE RISE TO CONTINUING CRITICISM OF GEHLEN AND RUMORS OF HIS RESIGNATION.

4. GP-3

BT

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ACTION: ACSI
DISTR: DCSOP, ACSFOR, OSD, JCS, NAVY, AF, CMIC, DIA, DIA(SA)
DA IN: 68475

FOR COORDINATION WITH US Army

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A JUN 56

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May 1965

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH ON GENERAL REINHARD GEHLEN

General Reinhard Gehlen is President of the West German Federal Intelligence Service. (BND).

Born 3 April 1902 in Erfurt, Germany, he finished his formal schooling in 1920 and entered military service directly, receiving his commission in 1923. Attending the War Academy in Berlin in 1936, he became a major in 1939, a brigadier general in 1944.

In charge of Foreign Armies-East in 1943, he came to believe the German cause on the Eastern front was lost. Reprimanded by Hitler for his negative opinions, he was ultimately dismissed toward the War's end. After caching his files in Bavaria, he surrendered to the Americans.

Reforming his unit, General Gehlen operated under G-2 auspices from 1946 until 1949 when CIA assumed sponsorship. The Gehlen Organization was legalized as the West German Service in March 1956.

General Gehlen has expanded his activities to the point that his organization has been accepted as a worldwide service. Expected to retire within the next two or three years, he lives quietly with his wife in Berg on the Starnberg Lake near Munich. He speaks good English.

Prepared for Admiral Rayborn, May 1965

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NWC-002360

ORIG: JAMES CRITCHFIELD
 UNIT: C/IT
 EXT: 7903
 DATE: 17 APRIL 1968

MESSAGE FORM
 TOTAL COPIES: 29

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2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

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TO MUNICH (PRIORITY) INFO BONN (ROUTINE)

CITE DIRECTOR

PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING TO UTILITY FROM [2] AT 17 APRIL DINNER:

"AS YOUR AMERICAN FRIENDS GATHER THIS EVENING TO OFFICIALLY BID YOU FAREWELL FROM THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, I AM SURE THAT MUCH WILL BE SAID BY MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUES ABOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN THE INTELLIGENCE FIELD. I WOULD JOIN THEM IN THIS EXPRESSION BUT WOULD NOTE THAT IN THE UNCERTAIN YEARS AFTER WORLD WAR II THE CONTRIBUTIONS YOU PERSONALLY AND INSTITUTIONALLY MADE TO LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS ON WHICH COOPERATION BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE WESTERN NATIONS, PARTICULARLY AMERICA, WERE BUILT MAY BE JUDGED IN HISTORY AS YOUR GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN SECURITY AND THE CAUSE OF PEACE. TO HAVE BEEN AN OBSERVER AND PARTICIPANT IN THAT EFFORT WAS FOR ME A UNIQUE AND PRIVILEGED EXPERIENCE."

END OF MESSAGE

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 Date: 2001

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
 (2)(A) Privacy ☐
 (2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
 (2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

REINHARD GEHLEN
Präsident des BND a.D.
Generalleutnant d.R.a.D.

8181 BERG BEI STARNBERG, BY 4 February, 1969

WALDSTRASSE 22

Executive Registry

69-1155

9-0782
DD, P.

Dear Mr. Helms,

Not only the United States but also all cooperating Intelligence leaders in the West complain the death of the Honorable Mr. Allen Dulles who was for all of us a symbol of seriousness and honesty in our common efforts to work for a peaceful world. It is not accidental that in the past in order to avoid his name in written documents we used the cover name "The Gentleman". He always proved to be not only an outstanding American official but also a friend of Germany. During all the years I admired his foresight, his experience and his broadmindedness. So I will always remember this great man as representative of the American intelligence effort during a long time. We participate in your grief.

Sincerely yours

R. Gehlen

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by the Central Intelligence Agency

Date: 2001

NWE-0027745
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

REINHARD GEHLEN

8131 BERG DEI STARNBERG, DEN 6 May 1970
WALDSTRASSE 40

Executive Registry

70-3132

Dear Mr. Helms,

I want to thank you very much for your kind birthday letter and your birthday congratulations which were forwarded to me by Heinz Herre. It was very kind of you to remember this day in spite of the pressure of your work. I can imagine that during the last months the working conditions have been and still are difficult for your service and for yourself. My thoughts and those of my friends are with you, wishing you good success.

Again just under the present circumstances I remember with gratitude our agreeable cooperation.

With best wishes and regards to you and Mrs. Helms, also from my wife,

Sincerely,



NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency

2001

NW1-002455

26 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/C1/L 2

SUBJECT: Sefton Delmer's Articles on Gehlen in the
Sunday Telegraph

1. These two articles are subtly and maliciously slanted, either as a result of British distaste for German militarists or a more sinister intent to serve Communist ends. Here are a few examples:

a. Delmer says that at the end of the war Gehlen was "in command of all anti-Soviet operations". He wasn't. He was in command of German military intelligence against the USSR. Then as now, he was mainly concerned with CB.

b. "For his own work had shown him that OSS had not even begun to function in the Soviet Union" (by the end of the war). True, it had not. But there is a nasty implication here that Gehlen had been busily at work against the OSS and had been so successful that he knew what it was doing and what it wasn't.

c. "For most of that first conversation Gehlen was examining General Patterson, not Patterson Gehlen." Here Delmer is describing Gehlen's first postwar contact with U.S. intelligence. How does he know? He wasn't there. The invention is in line with Delmer's consistent attempt to show Gehlen as very clever and very sinister.

d. "And it was in Washington that Gehlen made his all-important deal - the deal which was the dream of Himmler and Schellenberg, the deal which enabled him to revive a section of Hitler's General Staff and lay the foundation of German rearmament at a time when such rearmament was still anathema...." This is distorted and vicious. Gehlen laid the foundation for postwar German intelligence, not the General Staff or armaments.

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NWC-002544

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE

e. "For not only was he able to turn his unit into a shadow of German General Staff but more important still he was now in a position to supply the Americans with the kind of intelligence which would make them feel that it was essential to recreate the German Army to help in the defence of Europe against the Russians." The same twist is evident here. Some of Gehlen's key people were and are officers; others were not. The model on which the organization was fashioned was, naturally, the FHO (Fremde Heere Ost) of the OKW, not the General Staff itself. And Gehlen's product was not diabolically altered to pit us against the Soviets or to lay the groundwork for the remilitarization of Germany. Here and elsewhere, Delmer portrays the Americans as the naive dupes of the subtle, scheming Gehlen.

f. Delmer also charges that Gehlen's organization recruited many former SD and Gestapo members. This is an old Communist canard. Most of Gehlen's people were straight G-2 types, a few were Abwehr, but very few were SD or Gestapo, precisely because Gehlen knew he could not afford them politically - and also because these types were looked upon with distaste by the professional officer class.

g. The second article starts, "Berlin remains the main battlefield in the war between the two rival gangs of Hitler's former Secret Service men." The main lie here is the assumption of moral - or immoral - equality between East and West. This lie is basic to Communist propaganda. Another lie is the "Hitler's Secret Service men" - i.e., SD and Gestapo, as noted above. As a matter of fact, some of Gehlen's key people were part of the military plot against Hitler.

2. The two articles are, in effect, mischievous. Their net effect is to render a service to the East, not the West.

CI/L-]

2 - Addr
1 - DP

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 (2)(A) Privacy ☐
 (2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
 (2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

~~SECRET~~

1961

SUBJECT: Biographic Sketch of General Reinhard GEHLEN

1. General GEHLEN is the President of the West German Federal Intelligence Service. He has held this position since 31 March 1956 when the predecessor organization became legalized. During the postwar period and prior to that time General GEHLEN headed the private intelligence organization which bore his name before becoming the present West German Federal Intelligence Service.

2. General GEHLEN was born 3 April 1902 in Erfurt and was educated in Breslau. He entered the military service in 1920 and was commissioned in 1923. His first service was in the horse cavalry. In 1935 he attended the War Academy and subsequently became a General Staff Corps officer. He was a battery commander at the outbreak of World War II and was almost immediately promoted to the rank of Major. He filled a number of staff assignments coming in close contact with Generals HALDER and HEUSINGER. By 1942, he was placed in command of Fremde Herre Ost which was roughly the German equivalent of American G-2 intelligence operations on the German East front. He was a colonel at this time and was soon promoted to Generalmajor. His unit had both an operational and an analysis function regarding Soviet Army order of battle on the East front. He aroused the ire of Hitler as early as 1943 when during the course of an order of battle briefing for Hitler it was implied the German Army was facing defeat. Nevertheless his organization continued to function effectively during the remainder of the war under General Staff Corps protection at the time when the Abwehr disintegrated. By the time the general military situation began to disintegrate, GEHLEN made plans with several of his senior officers to withdraw with the files for the purpose of caching them in Bavaria. Basic plans were also laid for recontacting key personnel after the inevitable surrender in event a continuation of their work were possible.

3. In May 1945 and from a hideout in Bavaria, General GEHLEN surrendered to the United States Army. During the course of his interrogation he chose to reveal his ideas and plans for a continuation of his work. He and certain of his coworkers were sent to Camp Richey for a more detailed interrogation and a decision was made at the G-2 level to return General GEHLEN to Germany and allow him to rebuild his organization under G-2 responsibility. His organization was first located in Oberursel and later in Pullach. In 1948, CIA was requested to look into the GEHLEN Organization with a view to making a decision to take it over. By 1949, the decision was made and Pullach Operations Base was created to conduct liaison with the German organization and assist them as necessary. GEHLEN worked during this period to preserve the integrity of his organization from American control so that it would be politically acceptable to Bonn at the proper time. The essential American position was that of holding the

NW 6-002535

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[] GEHLEN, Reinhard

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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German organization together so that it would be available to Bonn when they required such an organization. General GEHLEN worked during this period to achieve the legalization of his organization which was accomplished in March 1946

4. General GEHLEN has always enjoyed a personal relationship with Mr. Dulles and his immediate predecessors. Privileged communications have been exchanged.

5. General GEHLEN is married and has three daughters and a son ranging in age from the late teens to the mid twenties. One of his daughters is married to his Bonn office representative. General GEHLEN appears to enjoy relatively good health despite a gall bladder or liver condition. He does not drink nor smoke. It is expected that he will continue in his present position for several more years before he chooses to retire. He lives in a house on Lake Starnberg some ten miles south of Munich. He lives there in as inconspicuous a manner as possible as is his characteristic of conduct of official matters.

~~SECRET~~

22 March 1962

General Reinhard Gehlen
President of the Bundesnachrichtendienst

Dear General Gehlen,

I wish to extend to you on the occasion of your sixtieth birthday my sincere congratulations. A real milestone has been reached and with my congratulations I send best wishes for your good health and continued success. I look back with great pleasure on our meetings during the past years and the opportunity they afforded for us to renew our friendship and I trust the future will afford us similar occasions.

Cordially,

Richard Helms

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- (2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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CEH/ET, R. h.